

September 2017

Meeting House News

First Presbyterian Church
On the Square, 2A North Hanover Street
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013



The Reverend Anthony D. Lorenz, Pastor
Debby Madden, Director of Educational Ministry
The Reverend Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus
Arthur Thompson, Organist
Susan Shuey, Choir Director
Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary
Michael Stamey, Sexton

Church Administrative Office Hours

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Pastor's Phone Number

Church Office E-mail

Pastor's E-mail

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Back To School!

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EXTENDED MARKET SEASON

The Farmers on the Square Market will extend their season into December this year. During November & December, Wednesday markets will be 3-6 PM.

Can't make it to church? Listen to weekly sermons and keep abreast of all church events at: www.firstprescarlisle.org



Pastor's Corner



Love God and love neighbor. - Jesus (Matthew 22:37-39)

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Do you ever get distracted? Maybe you have a lot on your mind or perhaps it's just a beautiful day, maybe someone is seeking your attention or perhaps something terrible is unfolding in front of you. Whatever the reason, it's easy to be distracted and it can be hard to regain your focus!

Sometimes it's even easy for the church to be distracted. There are instances when we get caught up in our own internal affairs or we get distracted by larger events swirling around us and we lose sight of our primary mission.

There have been a number of times in history when the church has been distracted. This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation led by a German monk named Martin Luther. In Luther's day the church was hopelessly obsessed with money and power. It had forgotten much of what Jesus teaches in the gospels. Luther's reform movement refocused the church's priorities but it also caused a schism, which persists to this day.

Sometimes we forget the simplicity and radical nature of Jesus' message. When He was asked which commandment in the law is the greatest, Jesus replied "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," echoing the words of Israel's most basic doctrinal statement, the *Shema*. Jesus then said the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

Most people find it easy to love God. Certainly not everyone, but it is usually easier to love God than to love our neighbors. Maybe they play loud music or maybe they have a barking dog or maybe they don't mow their yard often enough and the grass is too high. Or maybe they look different or sound different. Maybe they're from another country or practice a different religion. Sometimes we come up with all sorts of reasons not to love our neighbors.

I don't know about you, but I know that I continually need to be reminded that Jesus doesn't put any qualifiers on the second great commandment. Jesus doesn't say love your neighbor - the one who looks or sounds or believes like you. Jesus just says love your neighbor.

Sometimes we get distracted. Sometimes we forget to love our neighbor. You don't need me to tell you that our country is currently facing some deep divisions and serious issues. There are groups trying to tear us apart by spreading violence and hate against African Americans, Jews, and other minorities. Let me be clear: this is antithetical to the Gospel. Violence and hate are fundamentally opposed to the Good News of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ. Whenever and wherever we encounter these attitudes and actions, we must meet them with love.

At times like this it can be easy to get distracted from our primary mission as Christians. Loving God and loving neighbor is our daily way of life as disciples of Jesus Christ. Whenever we are faced with distractions, or with forces that seek to do harm, we must remember to hold on to God and to love others the way Jesus loves us.

Yours very truly in Christ,

Pastor Tony Lorenz

Welcome back

Come to our "Welcome Back" Sunday school Fall Kick-off **September 10th at 9:30 AM**. We'll meet together for an inter-generational class, the theme of which is "Jesus at the Table." At **10:45 AM** worship, we will partake of the Lord's Supper. **After worship**, we'll enjoy a Potluck Lunch, hosted by our Parish Life Committee. (There's still time to sign up to help us in planning!)



Regular classes resume on September 17th. We hope you'll make Sunday school part of your every-Sunday routine this fall. A detailed education brochure is available in the literature rack in Fellowship Hall, and on the church website ("Resources"). Here are a few highlights:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Age 3-K | Barb Crum & Lynne Hofferica | "Great Stories of the Bible" |
| 1st thru 5th graders | Bob Davis | "God's Word, My Voice" |
| Youth (not yet confirmed) | Rita Beck & Debby Madden | "100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation" |
| Youth (already confirmed) | Team JJ & Jen; Team John & Elizabeth; Team Matt & Megan; Team Joe & Heather | "NOOMA" DVD Series (teen topics) |
| Adults | Pastor Tony & various adults | "Reformed Questions, Reformed Answers" |

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY — OCT. 1st
Worship on October 1 will include the Sacrament of Communion, as well as the receipt of the annual PC (USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering. (*Read more below.*)

Need church note cards or phone sticky cleaners? Watch for the sale by the Deacons in Fellowship Hall, or contact Deb Richcreek.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS/GATHERINGS

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday, Sep. 11, 7 PM: | Space for God |
| Thursday, Sep. 14, 7 PM: | Book Club |
| Sunday, Sep. 17, after worship | Prayer Community Session |
| Tuesday, Sep. 19, 7 PM | Men's Breakfast |
| Thursday, Sep. 21, 7:30 AM | Faith Circle |
| Monday, Sep. 25, 2 PM | Space for God |
| Monday, Sep. 25, 7 PM | Presbytery, Falling Spring |
| Tuesday, Sep. 26, 6 PM | Presbytery's Fall Gathering |
| Saturday, Sep. 30, 9-Noon | (Paxton PC) |

2017 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

"So he came and proclaimed peace to those who were far off and peace to those who were near." (Ephesians 2:17)

The letter to the Ephesians tells us that Jesus came to proclaim a peace that is universal. While the earthly ministry of Jesus happened in a specific age and place, the peace he shared is limited by neither time nor geography. As followers of Christ, our call to work for peace begins in our own neighborhoods and extends to the ends of the earth. It is a demanding call, but it's one that Presbyterians at all levels of the church are seeking to follow.

Giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering is one way we can be faithful to Christ's call to pursue peace at home and around the world. Our gifts will support peace efforts in South Sudan even as interethnic fighting has pushed thousands of South Sudanese people into refugee camps across the border in Uganda. 25% of this offering stays with our church to build up peace in our community; 25% expands our witness throughout the region supporting ministries of peace and reconciliation in Presbyterian mid-councils, and 50% supports the global witness to Christ's peace through the Presbyterian Peacemaking program and the reconciliation work of the Presbyterian World Mission.

Prayer: We pray for courage to join with Christ to work for a world of peace and plenty. AMEN

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Session Finance Committee member Ron Richcreek provided a “Minute for Mission” during worship on August 27th. Here are highlights of his remarks:

- At the end of July, the Fund reached \$120K – 80% of our campaign goal of \$150K.
 - We have already paid a large part of the organ repair expense, and completed one A/C conversion, the railing around the basement entrance, and one heat trace system (i.e., gutter/spouting de-icing system).
 - We have applied to the Stuart Foundation for a grant, and continue to accept donations from church members to continue the projects and reach our goal.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE STUDY: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Room, beginning Oct. 10. When Martin Luther nailed the *95 Theses* to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg in 1517, he did so because of what he read in the Book of Romans. While preparing lectures for his university students Luther came to understand the core message of this book: salvation is by grace alone and justification is by faith alone. 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the protestant Reformation. In order to better understand the biblical foundations of Martin Luther's belief system we are going to study Romans. If you've ever wanted to know more about the biblical foundations of Protestantism, this class is for you! (**STARTS OCT. 1ST!**)
SPACE FOR GOD: 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7 PM in the church library (Sep. 11 & 25)

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These meetings offer an intentional time and space to explore Christian life & faith.

Faith Circle: 4th Monday at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall. Women of the church meet for

a Bible-based study of prayer. Circle members lead. Join this group of welcoming women.
MEN'S BREAKFAST: **3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 AM.** Join in this informal fellowship of the men of the church. Meet at a local breakfast location (announced each month).

FINANCE NOTES

(Stewardship & Finance Committee)

| | <u>June</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Gen'l Fund | \$ 16,661 | \$ 20,831 | \$ 146,230 |
| Invest. Income | \$ 7,134 | \$ 1,663 | \$ 10,602 |
| Other | \$ 526 | \$ 188 | \$ 1,420 |
| Expenses | \$(28,909) | \$(20,100) | \$(169,968) |

PER CAPITA

Every church is apportioned a share of expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. Based on church members, this is a “regular expense” payable by each church. If able, please help by paying your individual apportionment of \$25.58.

Thank you to those who have already paid.

MY BROTHER'S TABLE

This local mission of our Board of Deacons next serves the evening meal at The Salvation Army on **Sunday, September 10, 4:30-6:00 PM.** If interested in helping serve the meal, please contact Deb Richcreek.



TODDLER TIME

THANKS to all those who supported our summer
“Toddler Time” this year. Our numbers may have been
small, but our “fun-while-learning” factor was high!
(Debby)

ABOUT "SPACE FOR GOD"

This small-study group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM (**beginning Sep. 11**) in the church library (2nd floor; elevator-accessible).

"In 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther nailed a poster to the door of a church, disputing key doctrines taught by the Roman Catholic Church in that day. This event set in motion a movement that changed the entire trajectory of church history."

To honor the 500th anniversary of the protestant Reformation this Fall, the Space for God class will read Why Reformation Still Matters by Michael Reeves and Tim Chester. In the Spring we will be reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic Discipleship. *Space for God* is open to anyone and offers a time of thoughtful reflection on readings, as well as spirited discussion. We ask hard questions, allow space to consider the answers, and listen for God's voice.

(To order a copy of the book, see Debby or Tony.)

ONLINE GIVING – AN OPTION

One year ago (Sep. 1, 2016) we partnered with The Presbyterian Mission Exchange, a component of The Presbyterian Foundation, to offer an online giving option to you. To review, here's what will happen when you push the "Give Now" button found on the church website: (www.firstprescarlisle.org):

~ You will be linked to the First Presbyterian Church Profile Page at the Mission Exchange website, and will see a variety of designated funds. Currently, there are two options: "General Fund" (providing for the ongoing expenditures of worship, church maintenance, staff, etc.); and "Capital Campaign" (providing for necessary repairs and preservation of our church property).

~ Once you select a fund to give to, you will be asked for credit or debit card information. You may also choose to have funds withdrawn from a savings or checking account (Electronic Funds Transfer). Your contribution may be a one-time payment, or may be set up as a regular, recurring weekly, monthly, or annual payment. A recurring option ensures that your contribution reaches the church even when you are not in attendance.

~ Your funds are deposited into a secure account held by The Presbyterian Foundation and managed by The Presbyterian Mission Exchange on behalf of our church. The Mission Exchange deducts a small service fee of 2.598 percent + \$.026 for credit or debit card contributions. For example, from your donation of \$100.00, the church will receive \$97.14. Some churches find that their donors add a few dollars to their contribution to offset this fee. The account is similar to the local bank accounts that First Presbyterian Church uses. The church may access the account and withdraw funds as needed. You will receive an email from the Mission Exchange almost instantly, acknowledging your giving. The church also receives regular reports and will update your pledge records accordingly.

Regardless of whether you contribute by paper check, cash, or online, your gift to First Presbyterian Church is always appreciated and gratefully received.

Your Finance Committee



ATTENTION! FOR RENT

Choice 2' by 2' lots in the choir loft. Individual seats. Immediate possession possible. Friendly neighbors. Available for adults on Sunday mornings. Good-natured and lovable landlord. Apply in person at choir practice.

FARMERS ON THE SQUARE (FOTS)

The FOTS market seeks to provide an opportunity for local communities to access fresh, local products. The Cumberland Fresh Match Dollars program ensures that access means affordable access for all. Through Fresh Match, shoppers at FOTS will have their SNAP* benefits matched up to \$20 per week per recipient and FMNP or SFMNP** benefits up to \$10 per week. The additional money will be issued in the form of wooden tokens to be used at the market. USDA rules regarding the types of food to be purchased with these benefits are in place. More information is available at the info booth on Market Days.

* Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

** Farmers Market Nutri. Prog. & Sr. Farmers Mkt Nutri Prog.

PROJECT SHARE'S GLEANING PROGRAM

More than 36 local farms and farm markets allow gleaning in their fields or donate fresh produce. Volunteers gleaners are needed during September and October. Call 249-7773 or sign up at SHARE's website, www.projectshare.net.



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

Dickinson College recently sent a team of students to complete a variety of projects at the church. Thanks to coordinators Dennis Rydberg and Mike Stamey.



The Optimist

"I passed a sand lot yesterday,
Some kids were playing ball,
I strolled along the third base line,
Within the fielder's call.
'Say, what's the score?' I asked.
He yelled to beat the stuffing,
'There's no one out, the bases full,
They're winning forty-two to nothing!'
'You're getting beat, aren't you, my friend?'
And then in no time flat
He answered: 'No sir, not as yet!
Our side hasn't been up to bat!'"

First Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Deb Richcreek
Barb Allen
- 3 Bonnie Deardorff
Barbara Rebert
- 4 Rev. Tony Lorenz
JJ Patterson
- 7 Peggy McKeeken
- 10 Sue Hammann
Joan Line
- 12 Kara Fetter
- 14 Jack Augustine
Ruby Cameron
- 15 Dick Hammann
Ron Richcreek
- 18 Jamey Dennison
Sue Dennison
Julia Gottlieb
- 19 Tom McKinnon
- 21 Marita Neslund
Samantha Gilbert
Earl Zimmerman
- 23 Alex Henry
- 24 Sylvia Thompson
- 25 Jarl Uilkema
Joe Shane
- 26 Jessica Wenner
- 27 Jack Martin
- 29 Art Thompson
- 30 Jessica Ellis
Judie Read

**SEPTEMBER WORSHIP HELPERS****Readers:**

- Sep. 3: Peggy McKeeken
Sep. 10: Deb Ryerson
Sep. 17: Robert Thompson
Sep. 24: Bret Thomas

Ushers:

- Sep. 3: Joe Shane; Rick Line; Barb Rebert;
Mary Jane Blosser
Sep. 10: Peggy McKeeken; Kari Kornish;
Dick & Ellen Darr
Sep. 17: Earl & Alice Zimmerman; Ann Gottlieb;
Bob Read
Sep. 24: Dick & Tracy Sommers; Ray Thomas;
Dave Eavenson

Counters:

- Sep. 3: Jim & Barb Crum; Tom Sheperd
Sep. 10: Earl & Alice Zimmerman; Charlie Thompson
Sep. 17: Dick & Tracy Sommers; Anita Ashbaugh
Sep. 24: Ron & Deb Richcreek; Deb Ryerson

Fellowship Hosts:

- Sep. 3: Parish Life
Sep. 10: *None needed (Luncheon)*
Sep. 17: Connie & Dennis Husler
Sep. 24: Jenneane & Jerry Light

Flowers: Anita Ashbaugh (chair) & Lou Anne Stamey

Service Recorder: Ray Thomas

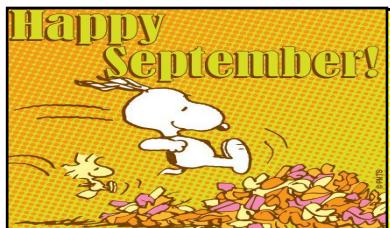
Communion—Sep. 10 (Served):

- Preparers:** Peggy McKeeken; Bob & Judie Read
Servers: Charlie Thompson; Dick Darr; Barb Allen;
Elizabeth Martin; Ron Richcreek; Lynda Mann

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please find a replacement and give the name(s) to the church secretary as soon as known.

Join the Choir!
Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, Sep. 6th. Their first anthem will be on Sunday, Sep. 10th.





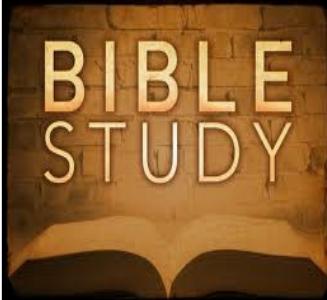
September 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|----|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 LAST WEEK OF SUMMER SCHEDULE 10 AM: Worship Fellowship | 4  Office closed | 5 | 6 6 PM: Worship Committee 7 PM: Choir | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 RETURN TO NORMAL SCHEDULE 9:30 AM: Combined Sunday School 10:45 AM: Worship, w/Communion After: Luncheon 4:30 PM: My Bros' Table | 11 7 PM: Space for God | 12 | 13 1:30 PM: Prop. Committee 7 PM: Choir | 14 7 PM: Book Club | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:15 AM: Prayer 9:30 AM: S.S. 10:45 AM: Worship After: Fellowship After: Prayer Community | 18 7 PM: Session | 19 | 20 7 PM: Choir | 21 7:30 AM: Men's Breakfast | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:15 AM: Prayer 9:30 AM: S.S. 10:45 AM: Worship After: Fellowship | 25 2 PM: Faith Circle 7 PM: Space for God | 26 6 PM: Carlisle Presbytery meets (Falling Spring) | 27 7 PM: Choir | 28 | 29 | 30 Presbytery Fall Education Seminar (at Paxton PC) |

**"Space
for
God"**

...begins Monday evening, Sep. 11, at 7 PM. See Debby or Pastor Tony to buy a book.



...begins Tuesday evening, Oct. 10, at 6:30 PM. See Debby or Pastor Tony to buy a book.